

1346-4
SEP 23 1999

Mr. Rick Breitenbach
CalFed Bay-Delta Program
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Re: *Comments on Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
Environmental Impact Report [EIS / EIR]*

I have several questions and concerns with the draft programmatic EIS/EIR for the CalFed Bay-Delta Program. To date, the effort being conducted by 15 state and federal agencies has not sufficiently considered the impacts that the programs would have on recreational boaters in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the San Francisco Bay. I request that recreational boaters be included as stakeholders.

Boaters cannot embrace the proposed preferred program alternative until a number of critical issues are addressed, the impacts are assessed, and the mitigations are decided upon, for impacts on recreation that are significant or avoidable. It is critical that CALFED projects:

- maximize recreation opportunities,
- ensure accessibility to boaters and the general public,
- recognize seasonal habitat constraints,
- minimize restrictions to navigation,
- provide drinking water and sewage disposal,
- provide recreation facilities, and
- provide adequate directional and information signage to recreational facilities.

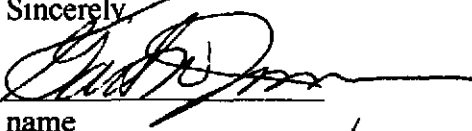
In addition, a percentage of funds for the CALFED program should be set aside for preparation and implementation of a "recreation master plan" that is developed by recreation stakeholders. A Delta Recreation Oversight Committee, made up of Delta recreation "stakeholders" (local and State governments, marina owners and operators, boaters, anglers, other recreational users) should be convened for this effort.

Projects funded with CALFED funds should also designate a percentage of funds to be used to provide public access, recreation and improved services for recreational boaters.

It is also important that the CALFED process recognize and incorporate the findings of the Department of Boating and Waterways studies regarding levee erosion, vessel traffic, and boating needs assessment to determine prime aquatic recreation areas to be protected and enhanced.

I am very concerned that the draft programmatic EIS/EIR fails to adequately address these critical issues and, as a boater, I cannot support the alternative that is under consideration unless there is sufficient mitigations to ensure that recreational boating will continue at the levels that are enjoyed today.

Sincerely,

 , Commodore
name

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